

# Army veteran continuing to serve



A 23-year career in the Army took Charles Anthony to Iraq. The Gilbert resident turned in his fatigues for a teaching certificate.

## This hitch is in grade school

By Kendall Wright  
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After 23 years in the Army, a Gilbert man came to a point in his life where he felt he needed to serve his country again.

That's when Charles Anthony decided to become a teacher.

Anthony, 43, is one among more than 8,000 former military personnel who entered K-12 teaching through the Troops to Teachers program authorized by Congress in 1993.

Five universities and 12 years later, Anthony completed his master's degree this month in secondary education at Grand Canyon University in May.

"Ever since I can remember I've always loved children," he said. "I've already served my

country once, and since there is such a need for teachers, this is a way I can serve again."

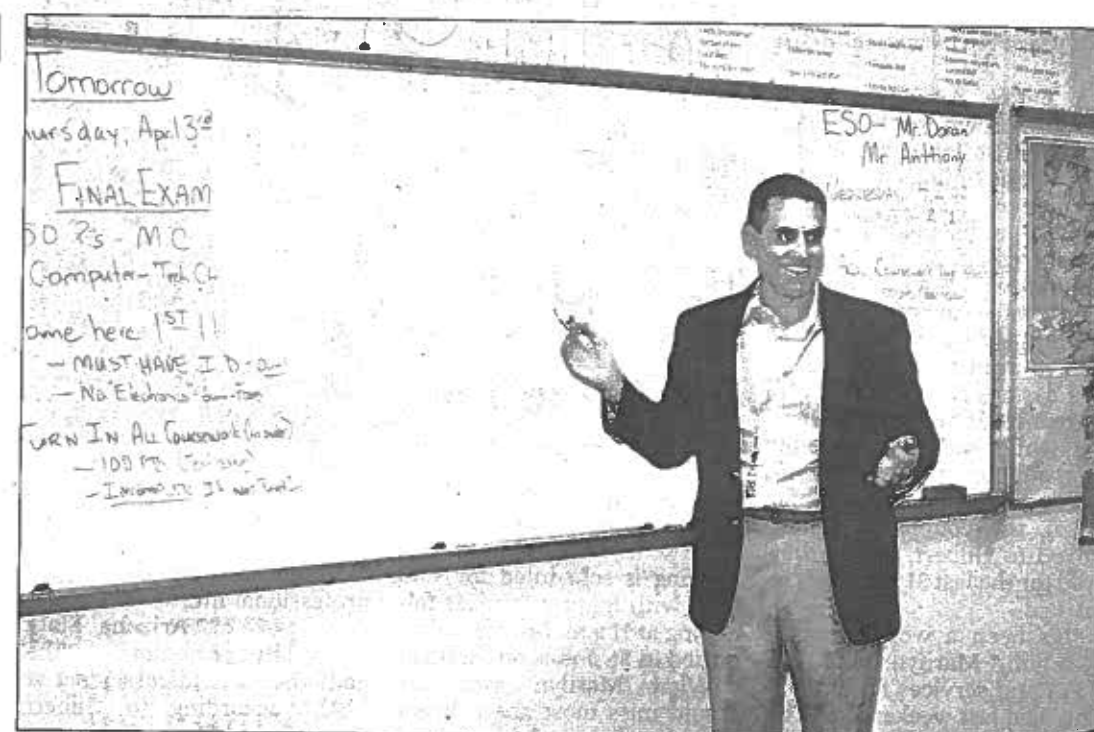
Anthony, who was discharged from the Army about three years ago, will be leaving Wells Fargo, where he is a vice president of the auto division, to teach at Hamilton Prep Academy in Chandler in the fall.

A Cuban native, Anthony moved to the United States when he was 5.

Growing up in Chicago, he said he experienced the frustration of learning to deal with conflicting cultures of his home and school life.

He said he relates well to students who are in a similar position.

"I was a Cuban with one foot in one world and one in the other," Anthony said. "I thought I was a real tough guy until a teacher of mine pulled



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHARLES ANTHONY

Anthony is set to begin teaching social studies at Hamilton Preparatory Academy in Chandler. Anthony entered K-12 teaching through the Troops to Teachers program.

me aside and challenged me to be better."

Unfocused and needing direction, Anthony admitted he joined the Army when he was 17 because of cool advertising that made the job look like he would be spending his time riding motorcycles and jumping out of planes.

"When I came back from basic training I was changed, though," he said. "Suddenly I was answering everyone 'Yes ma'am' and 'Yes sir.' It's where I learned manners and discipline."

And it's those kinds of qualities that Anthony feels will

make him and other former military personnel great teachers.

"So many kids are just aching for positive role models, especially in men," he said. "Being in the service instills many of the same core values that align with what educators want to teach. It gives people like me a way to continue using what we've already learned, and teach those values to others."

Anthony took online classes through Grand Canyon University, a private Phoenix college that markets education degree programs for military personnel and their spouses.

Although he said he is excited to leave the corporate world, he is also taking a 70 percent pay cut to pursue his dream.

Anthony is set to begin teaching seventh- and eighth-grade social studies at Hamilton Preparatory Academy in the fall.

"Educators must be the bridge between the history they teach and today in order for students to see relevance," he said.

"I've been there. I've lived history. I have the personal experiences to show why it's important."

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